

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 1-9 and 12-21 are pending.

Claims 1 and 3-9 have been amended.

Claims 10-11 have been cancelled.

Claims 12-21 have been added.

Support for the amendments is found in the claims and specification (pages 5, 10, and Table 1 at pages 23-24) as filed. No new matter is believed to have been added.

Applicants wish to thank the Examiner and his Supervisor for the meeting on December 11, 2007. The subject of the meeting included all rejections in view of the proposed amendments. Specifically, introducing specific molecular weight of a cellulose ether, "n" being 10-20, concentration of an allergen, and a composition comprising another allergen in addition to polysaccharide derivatives were reviewed during the discussion. A method for inactivating an allergen in an environment, a mask, a sheet, and a cosmetic product comprising the claimed polysaccharide derivatives were also discussed.

The rejection of claims 3 under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, and is not applicable to the claims presented herein as claim 3 is amended to delete the term "starch ether".

The rejections of claim 10 under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, and 101 are not applicable to the claims presented herein as claim 10 is cancelled.

The rejection of claims 1-3 and 11 under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) over Nagasawa, WO 00/73351, (page reference below is made to US counterpart patent 6,541,614) is traversed because Nagasawa does not describe selecting a cellulose ether as a backbone for

polysaccharide derivatives, wherein the cellulose ether has an average molecular weight of 100,000 to 600,000 or 100,000 to 200,000 (see present claims 1 and 13). Nagasawa does not describe the claimed molecular weight of the cellulose ether in combination with n being from 10-20 (see present claims 12, 14, and 20-21) and hydroxyethylcellulose having the claimed average molecular weight (see present claim 3).

Nagasawa describes a general formula of polysaccharide derivatives having hydrogen atoms in the hydrogen groups substituted with a group of formula (1), wherein n is generally from 8 to 300 (col. 1-2). Nagasawa further teaches that an average molecular weight ("MW") of the starting polysaccharide or its derivative is from 10,000 to 10,000,000, 100,000 to 5,000,000, and 300,000 to 2,000,000 (col. 5, lines 24-26). This is NOT an average molecular weight of a cellulose ether as a backbone of a polysaccharide derivative as claimed.

Nagasawa specifically teaches compounds that differ from those claimed. For example, Example 1 describes hydroxyethylcellulose having an average MW about 800,000 and n being 50 (col. 10); Example 6 describes hydroxyethylcellulose having an average MW of 1,500,000 and n being 12; Example 7 describes hydroxyethylcellulose having an average MW of 1,500,000 and n being 19; Example 8 describes hydroxyethylcellulose having an average MW of 800,000 and n being 20; Comparative Example 1 describes hydroxyethylcellulose having an average MW of 800,000, Comparative Example 2 describes methylcellulose having an average MW of 300,000; and Comparative Example 3 describes hydroxyethylcellulose having an average MW of 1,500,000 and n being 3 (see col. 10-14). In addition, the compounds of Comparative Examples 1 and 2 do not have side chains, which is not within the scope of the present invention.

Nagasawa does not specifically teach selecting a cellulose ether having an average MW of 100,000 to 600,000 or 100,000 to 200,000 (see present claims 1 and 13) and the claimed molecular weight of the cellulose ether in combination with n being from 10-20 (see

present claims 12 and 14). Nagasawa also does not teach selecting hydroxyethylcellulose having an average MW of 100,000 to 600,000 (see present claim 3).

Nagasawa does not teach a polysaccharide comprising agent being an aerosol and a mask, sheet and cosmetic product comprising the claimed allergen inactivating agent.

Thus, Nagasawa does not anticipate the claimed allergen inactivating agent comprising polysaccharide derivatives.

Nagasawa does not make the claimed agent obvious because the allergen inactivating effect of the Nagasawa polysaccharides would not have been expected. The polysaccharides having the claimed ranges of molecular weight advantageously provide the allergen inactivating effect that is quite different from the thickening effect of Nagasawa.

Applicants request that the rejection be withdrawn.

A Notice of Allowance for all pending claims is requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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